

EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL REVIEW DISCUSSION SESSION

Chair: Maria Kalenchits (Estonia)

Participants: Olga Akimova (Ukraine), Snejina Bacheva (Bulgaria), Iracli Goradze (Georgia), Anastassia Ivanova (Russia), Valentina Khazova (Russia), Peter Pissierssens (France, IOC), Jadranka Stojanovski (Croatia), Jadviga Zdanowska (Poland).

According to the Provisional Agenda the topics covering various aspects of revision of the Eastern European Regional Review (prepared by Ian Pettman in 1996, at the request of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission ¹) were intended to be discussed during the Session.

In order to more clearly identify the group of countries it was suggested by the participants that the definition "European Countries in Economic Transition (ECET)" should preferably be used instead of "Eastern European Countries". At the start of the discussion, the participants indicated the need for up-to-date information on the aquatic libraries and information centres in the region. A questionnaire was proposed as one of the possible tools of obtaining the necessary information. In order to improve the collaboration between the aquatic libraries in the region and recruit new EURASLIC members, some participants volunteered to identify and contact the aquatic libraries in their own and/or neighbouring countries (Anastassia Ivanova for Russia, Iracli Goradze for Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan; Maria Kalenchits for Latvia, Lithuania).

In the course of discussion the group agreed with the suggestion by Peter Pissierssens to concentrate efforts on identifying the needs and preparing specific project proposals rather than to produce an updated regional review. It was indicated that the projects proposed should take into account both the interests of concrete libraries and also to benefit to all EURASLIC members. Among the projects the preservation and digitisation of unique special collections, document delivery and regional training courses were suggested. The participants agreed to join into a temporary ECET Electronic Discussion Group to discuss the draft project proposals, which should be written by the end of the year. It was also agreed that for the discussion and assessment of the proposals they should be forwarded to EURASLIC Board. The participants would also expect that the EURASLIC Board advise them of possible sources of financing of concrete actual projects. Maria Kalenchits has volunteered to coordinate this activity.

¹ A summary of the state of information provision for the aquatic sciences in Eastern Europe: including recommendations for future actions in order to assure closer collaboration between Eastern and Western European aquatic sciences libraries and information centres and ensure mutual access/exchange of documents and information / Comp. by I. Pettman.- 1996

